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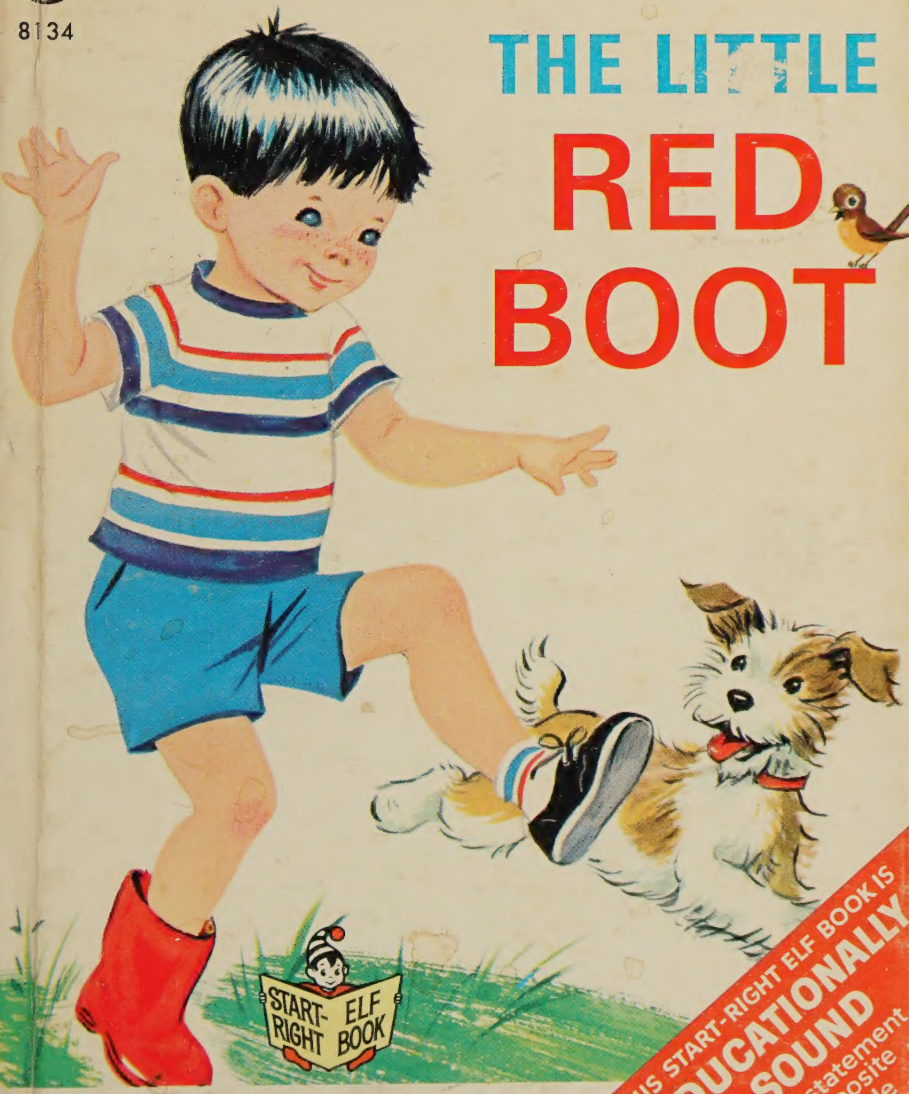
THE LITTLE RED BOOT



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A MESSAGE TO PARENTS & TEACHERS:

In this new series of inexpensive books for children, Rand McNally is presenting carefully selected, good literature for the very young child. Books in this series are factual, fanciful, humorous, questioning and adventurous. It is hoped that the series will provide for the masses of children whose parents might be unaware of the availability of good literature at such nominal cost. We firmly believe that the love and appreciation of literature must begin when the child is very young.

This is a story with several interest points for young children. Most all youngsters enjoy the playfulness and antics of pets and there are a few chuckles when the two dogs see the same little red boot. Of course a surprise is always special and Jimmy has a very special one waiting for him at home when he runs there to show the little red boot to his mother.

The simplicity and realism of this story make it appealing to the three- and four-year old particularly. It could possibly be used to lead up to a real surprise for the child when the story is finished.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Evanston, Illinois

THE LITTLE RED BOOT

By Ruth Dixon

Illustrated by Dorothy Grider

RAND McNALLY & COMPANY • Chicago

Established 1856

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ONCE THERE WAS a boy with black hair and freckles and a smile. His name was Jimmy. He had a shaggy dog named Blinky.

There was one thing Jimmy was wishing and wishing and WISHING for. And that was a pair of red rubber boots.

"I could splash around in puddles and not get my feet wet," he told Blinky one day when they were out walking. "I could slosh through mud and snow. It would be, oh, such fun!"

Just then Blinky gave a bark. And there, right in the middle of the road, Jimmy saw something.

Could it be, yes, it *was*—a little red boot!

"Hurray!" cried Jimmy. He sat down at the side of the road and tried it on, as quick as a wink. "It fits! Let's find the other one!"

With one red boot and one black shoe Jimmy went hippity-hop down the road. Blinky tossed back his shaggy hair and frisked beside him. Suddenly Jimmy

stopped and took off his little red boot. His toe hurt. "My stocking is wrinkled. That's all," he told Blinky.

But playful Blinky cried, "Woof!" and ran off with the boot.

"Stop it! Come back here!" shouted Jimmy.

Then Jimmy and Blinky with the little red boot in his mouth ran and ran and ran.

Along came Bozo, a great BIG dog. He trotted after them.

POUNCE! Bozo grabbed one end of the boot. Blinky held onto his end and growled lower than he ever thought he could. Each dog pulled and *pullllleed* and PULLLLLLED. Then Blinky let go.

BANG went the boot smack into Bozo's face.

"KI-YI!" he yelped. "*Kiyikiyi-kiyi!*"

But Bozo did not drop the boot until Jitters, a little black kitten, came out for a stroll. He dropped the boot—*splash*—into

a big puddle and chased Jitters up a tree. She washed her face calmly and did not think his barks were worth fussing over.

Jimmy pulled off his shoes and stockings in a hurry. Then he waded into the puddle. A hoppy frog who thought it was a raft, jumped off the boot and said,

CRRRROOK!" Jimmy laughed and picked up the boot. Blinky, splashing in after him, laughed too! So did a gray squirrel and a big fat robin.

Jimmy and the boot and Blinky had to dry in the sunshine.

After they dried off a little Jimmy put on the red boot. He could hardly wait to show it to his mother. He and Blinky scampered home as fast as they could go.

Mother was waiting for them.

"Why, Jimmy," she said, "you have found the little red boot. I bought it for you this morning and it got lost. Here, put on the other one!"

So that is just what Jimmy did.

"O, Boy!" he said, "that little red boot fits, too!"

And he smiled and smiled.

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START-RIGHT ELF® BOOKS

The National College of Education, educational consultant for this series, states: "Each title has been carefully selected according to criteria developed by early childhood specialists . . . They are factual, fanciful, humorous, questioning and adventurous."

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